# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PLANNING
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:370
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
ASSESSMENT OF POVERTY
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Planning Commission conducts an exercise to estimate the poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the norms laid down and the methodology adopted by the Commission for the purpose;

(c) the outcome of the assessment made in this regard on the last occasion, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to address the issue?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.370 REGARDING ASSESSMENT OF POVERTY BY SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY AND SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV FOR ANSER ON 21-04-2010

(a) to (c): The Planning Commission estimates the poverty from a large size sample survey of household consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) after an interval of 5 years approximately. Since 1997 the poverty estimates are based on the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor ( Lakdawala Committee). The Poverty line was defined as per capita consumption level of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per capita per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level which corresponds to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The National Poverty Line is disaggregated into State- wise poverty lines in order to reflect the State-wise price differentials and these poverty lines are updated using Consumer Price Index for Agriculture Labourers (CPI-AL) in rural areas and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for urban areas. The latest poverty estimates based on 61st Round NSSO Data have been released for the year 2004-05 wherein the poverty line adopted at all-India level is Rs.356.30 per capita consumption per month at 2004-05 prices for rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita consumption per month for urban areas. State-wise assessment of poverty based on the last poverty estimates for the year 2004-05 is at Annexure-I. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December 2005 to revise the methodology for estimation of poverty and it submitted its report on 8th December 2009. The Planning Commission is seized of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

(d): Alleviation of poverty has been one of the objectives of Development Planning and a number of poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented which include: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of the Ministry of Rural Development, which guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) provides self employment to the rural poor who are organized into Self Help Groups (SGHs) and are provided income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and subsidy alongwith skill development component. Under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) the shelterless rural BPL households are provided financial assistance for construction of houses. National Social Assurance Programme (NSAP) provides social security in the form of IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme), pension scheme for widows and disabled etc, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, a Health Insurance Scheme for the unorganized BPL workers are the other measures taken by the government. Similarly the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which aims to encourage urban self-employment through subsidy and loan with a component of skill development training, Rajiv Awas Yojana aims to make the country slum-free. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is implementing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which provides food grains at subsidized rates to the poor, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) provides food grains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate.